Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF June 18, 2001 TO JUNE 22, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Manufacturing Shipments ($millions)	April			Canadian manufacturing shipments fell 0.6% in April, after rising 1.7% in March. The fall is attributed to reduced shipments of computer and electronic products (-6.0%) and shipments of petroleum and coal products (-4.7%). Sectors counteracting the decline included the motor vehicle industry (3.2%) and wood products industry (4.0%). Shipments fell the most in Saskatchewan (-7.2%), Alberta (-3.6%), and Quebec (-3.6%). There was a rise in shipping in New Brunswick (5.4%), Newfoundland (3.3%), and Ontario (1.1%).
Alberta	3,635	-3.6%	9.8%	
Canada	43,391	-0.6%	0.9%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	May			The Composite Leading Index remained unchanged from April. Five of the ten components decreased, led by the TSE 300 index (-1.9%) and new orders of durables (-1.2%). The largest gains were in the housing index (3.6%) and furniture and appliance sales (1.2%). Year over year, the index is up 2.2% from May 2000.
	166.2	0.0%	2.2%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	May			In May, total housing starts in Canada fell 4.3% to 155,000 units from 162,000 in April, while urban housing starts fell 5.0% to 132,800. Housing starts declined in six provinces with the largest decreases in Nova Scotia (-51.4%), Manitoba (-28.6%), and Saskatchewan (-28.6%). Provinces experiencing the largest increases were Newfoundland (62.5%) and British Columbia (8.0%). Year to date, urban housing starts are up 7.1%.
Alberta	23.5	-4.9%	-7.4%	
Canada	132.8	-5.0%	11.8%	
Retail Sales ($millions)	April			Alberta retail sales rose 1.2% in April to $2.9 billion. Canadian retail sales rose 1.6% to $24.2 billion, which was the strongest monthly gain since December 1999. The increase was fuelled by higher motor vehicle (4.5%) and clothing sales (3.9%). Retail sales advanced in six provinces with Quebec (3.9%) and New Brunswick (3.7%) realising the largest gains.
Alberta	2,859	1.2%	10.2%	
Canada	24,160	1.6%	6.5%	